

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/068,319

Examiner

Nelson D. Hernandez

Applicant(s)

KIJIMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Response filed November 11, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11 and 15-20 (Renumbered as 1-7 respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 02042006.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

N. Vu
NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Examiner acknowledges the amendments made on the claims filed November 21, 2005. Claims 11 and 15-19 have been amended.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see page 7, line 19 – page 8, line 20, filed November 21, 2005, with respect to claims 11 and 20 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 11 and 20 have been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Louis Weinstein on February 6, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

a strobo means for illuminating the scene incident on the imaging element;

a sweep-out means for sweeping out unnecessary charge in the imaging element; and

a control means for setting a lower sweep-out frequency of the sweep-out means when the strobo means ~~when the strobo means~~ is being charged than when the strobo means is not being charged.

4. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: **Figures 15-19** will include the legend "Prior Art". In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. **Claims 11 and 15-20** (Renumbered as 1-7) are allowed.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 11, the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, in combination with the existing elements of the present claim, control means for setting a lower sweep-out frequency of the sweep-out means when the strobo means is being charged than when the strobo means is not being charged.

Regarding claim 20, the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, in combination with the existing elements of the present claim, setting a frequency of a sweep out signal for sweeping out unnecessary charge from the imaging element whereby a higher frequency sweep-out signal is set when an output voltage level of the power source is greater than a first predetermined voltage and setting a lower frequency for the sweep out signal when the output voltage level is lower than said first predetermined voltage.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson D. Hernandez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7311. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ngoc Yen Vu can be reached on (571) 272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2612

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nelson D. Hernandez
Examiner
Art Unit 2612

NDHH
February 4, 2006



NGOC-YEN VII
PRIMARY EXAMINER